EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 3-17-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

January 12, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: ARA - Mr. Brandon Grove

THROUGH: ARA/CAR - Ashley Hewitt

FROM: ARA/CAR - Richard A. McCoy

SUBJECT: Your Request for Information Concerning Passport Issuance to [redacted] E BC

You had been requested by Mr. George Berdas, HIRC staffer conducting the preliminary investigation for Chairman Zablocki into the Jonestown tragedy to determine how [redacted] four year old female, was allowed to depart the United States singly or with her grandmother. E BC

I had CA/PPT review their records including both computer and hand searches. However, they found no record that any passport was issued to [redacted] The grandmother's passport application was also checked but did not include [redacted] so PPT cannot state how she departed the U.S. E BC E BC

I was told in January, 1978 by the grandmother that she (the grandmother) had brought [redacted] to Guyana. I do not remember whether I saw [redacted] passport during my visit, in that month to Jonestown, however, I am certain I must have since that was the procedure I followed in all such cases. E BC E BC

You should be aware that U.S. citizens are not required to have a passport to depart the United States to travel to countries in the Western Hemisphere. What puzzles me about this reported lack of a passport is that after I believe, January 1, 1976 the Government of Guyana required passports of all individuals entering Guyana. I am certain that [redacted] did not enter Guyana until the summer of 1977 therefore, she should have had a passport. E BC

WH - SG - [illegible]
Informed Bob Huber of HIRC staff of the contents of this memo by phone on 1/16/79. (1927) BC

Loren Lawrence, formerly Deputy Assistant Secretary for Passport Services indicated to me that their records check is only about 85 percent accurate so there is a margin for error. Also there is a possibility the passport was issued under another name.

I trust the above information is sufficiently detailed for you to answer Mr. Berdas' inquiry.